

# STATE of WISCONSIN



## OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

# Proclamation

*WHEREAS*; on February 3, 1943, four United States Army chaplains aboard the *USAT Dorchester* heroically gave their lives in the process of saving others as their ship was torpedoed and sank in less than 20 minutes; and

*WHEREAS*; when the supply of life jackets ran out on their sinking ship, Lieutenant George Fox, a Methodist minister, Lieutenant Alexander Goode, a Jewish rabbi, Lieutenant Clark Poling, a Dutch Reformed minister, and Lieutenant John Washington, a Roman Catholic priest, selflessly gave up their life jackets to those who had none; and

*WHEREAS*; according to witnesses who survived the attack, the four chaplains linked arms, sang hymns, and offered prayers as they went down with their ship; and

*WHEREAS*; 672 members of our nation's military tragically passed away that day, including the four chaplains and 11 soldiers from Wisconsin, and a memorial to those who lost their lives is located in the village of Dorchester; and

*WHEREAS*; today, the state of Wisconsin joins all Wisconsinites in reflecting on the selflessness and sacrifice of the four chaplains, and all those who lost their lives aboard the *USAT Dorchester*, on that fateful day 78 years ago;


*NOW, THEREFORE*, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim February 3, 2021, as

## FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY


throughout the State of Wisconsin and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 27<sup>th</sup> day of January 2021.

  
TONY EVERS  
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

  
DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE  
Secretary of State